

# **The CALFED Bay-Delta Authorization Act**

**A Balanced Law to Improve California's  
Environment and Water Supply**

**Sponsored by Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Signed Into Law on October 25, 2004**

Dear Californian:

On October 25, 2004, legislation authorizing \$395 million for a balanced program to increase California's water supply, reliability and quality and help restore sensitive water ecosystems was signed into law.

The approval of this legislation – known as CALFED – was the culmination of more than a decade's worth of work, and it is my hope that through this law we can prevent a water crisis similar to the one that we faced with electricity.

This law will ensure that California can meet its water needs in a balanced manner – for farmers, for cities, and for the environment. It will mean that California will be able to build the storage that is necessary, ensure water quality, and protect the environment.

Now that we've passed this legislation, the hard work really begins. We have to secure funding through the appropriations process so that we can fund the projects laid out in the legislation, including feasibility studies for the storage projects. We have to ensure that the projects are implemented in a balanced manner to prevent the CALFED program from ending up in the courts. And we need to continue to look for new ways to prevent the perpetual shortage of water in the West from turning into a crisis.

This is a tremendous moment for California. It will mean a great deal in terms of increasing California's ability to withstand drought and meet the needs of its ever growing population. I am very pleased that it was signed into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dianne Feinstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dianne" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Feinstein".

Dianne Feinstein  
U.S. Senator

# THE ISSUES

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## **Population Growth:**

California's water infrastructure was built when the State's population was 16 million. Now, California's population has grown to 36 million, and by the year 2020, it will reach 50 million. Despite this growth, the last major infrastructure improvement in the state occurred in the 1960s.

## **Environmental Vulnerability:**

California is home to some of the most beautiful vistas, diverse species, and significant environmental resources in the world. Past water development, however, has degraded these resources. Future water development must restore and enhance them.

## **Thriving Agriculture:**

California is the number one agricultural producing state, leading the nation in the production of dairy products, wine and grapes, strawberries, almonds, lettuce, tomatoes, and more. But because much of California is a dry, semi-arid region, agricultural production requires a significant investment in water resources and irrigation systems.

**Unless we improve the water infrastructure in California, the State's supply of drinking water, water for agriculture and water for ecosystem restoration is in serious jeopardy.**

# THE HISTORY

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Over the past decade, Senator Feinstein has convened more than one hundred meetings with agricultural, urban, and environmental stakeholders to determine the best way to address the State's water challenge in an environmentally sensitive manner.

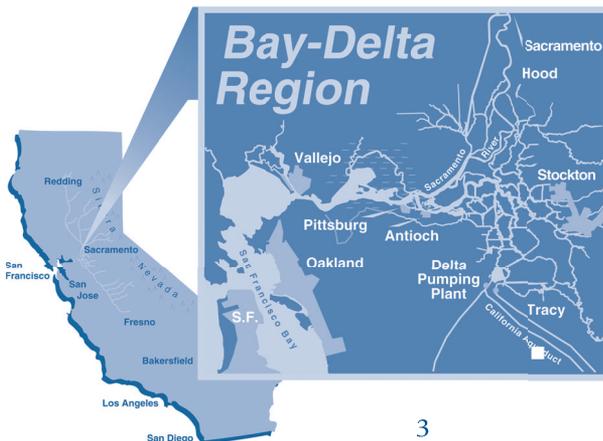
Out of these meetings came the California Bay - Delta Accord, which set forth a Framework for Action between the State and Federal Government on ecosystem restoration, environmental preservation, and a plan for new, smart storage of water.

The legislation that has been approved continues the process begun years ago, providing a comprehensive approach to the water problem in California.

## The legislation:

- Restores environmentally significant areas of the State, including the San Francisco Bay-Delta;
- Provides the necessary water infrastructure to enable California to continue to lead the nation in economic growth and agricultural production; and
- Ensures a safe, reliable source of drinking water for California's growing population.

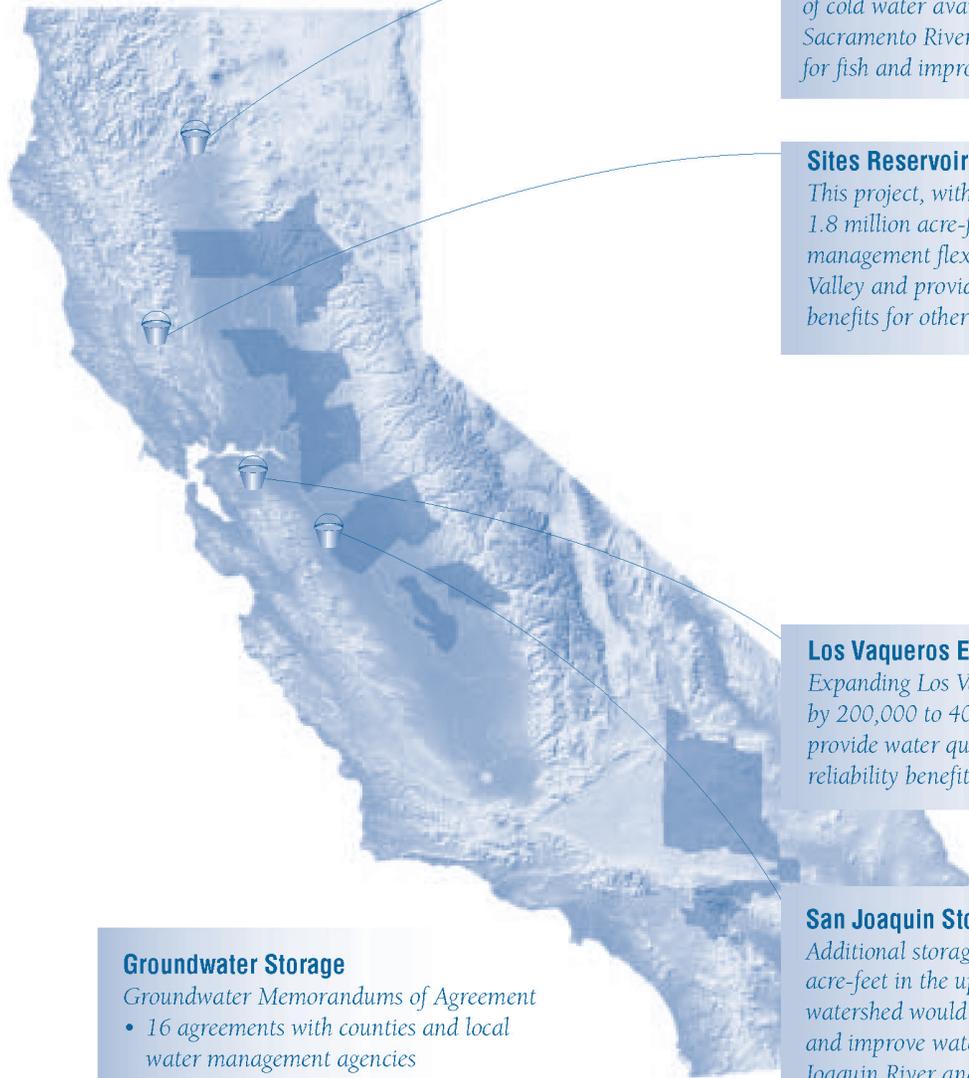
By taking this approach, the legislation balances the needs of agricultural, urban and environmental interests and begins to address the needs of California's aging water infrastructure.



*The Bay-Delta Accord provides a roadmap for meeting the twin objectives of ecosystem restoration and improved water supply*

# THE CALFED BAY-DELTA AUTHORIZATION ACT

## POTENTIAL WATER STORAGE PROJECTS



### Groundwater Storage

*Groundwater Memorandums of Agreement*

- 16 agreements with counties and local water management agencies

*Groundwater Grants and Loans*

- \$107.6 million for 39 projects (Prop. 13, Chapter 8 Article 4 and Chapter 9 Article 2, and AB 303)

### Shasta Enlargement

*An increase in Shasta storage capacity by 300,000 acre-feet would increase the pool of cold water available to maintain lower Sacramento River temperatures for fish and improve water supply.*

### Sites Reservoir

*This project, with a capacity of about 1.8 million acre-feet, would enhance water management flexibility in the Sacramento Valley and provide storage and operational benefits for other CALFED programs.*

### Los Vaqueros Enlargement

*Expanding Los Vaqueros reservoir by 200,000 to 400,000 acre-feet would provide water quality and water supply reliability benefits to Bay Area water users.*

### San Joaquin Storage

*Additional storage of 250,000 to 700,000 acre-feet in the upper San Joaquin River watershed would be designed to help restore and improve water quality for the San Joaquin River and facilitate conjunctive water management and water exchanges that improve the quality of water deliveries to urban communities.*

Senator Feinstein authored *The CALFED Bay-Delta Authorization Act* to improve California's water supply.

The legislation protects and restores endangered habitats and ecosystems; authorizes funding for the State-Federal partnership known as CALFED; and creates off-stream water storage so that more water from wet years can be used during dry years.

The act authorizes \$395 million in federal contributions over 6 years and establishes reliable water supply through a balanced program of projects in the following areas:

- **Improved Infrastructure and Water Storage:**

Including screens to protect fish, levee improvements to protect water quality and ensure beneficial land use, through-Delta conveyance improvements and additional ground and off-stream surface water storage.

- **Ecosystem Restoration:** Comprising more than 600 program elements including water purchases to improve river habitat, removal of dams that are no longer necessary and hinder fish migration, restoration of streams, and restoration of significant land habitat.
- **Improved Water Management:** Including smarter use of water supplies and facilities to reduce environmental impact of water exports. Projects include water transfers, conservation, reclamation, drought contingency planning and implementing a joint point of diversion for the State and federal water projects.

The bill limits the federal cost share to 33% and requires that the projects be implemented in a balanced way that provides for the simultaneous development of ecosystem restoration and water projects.

# INCREASING CALIFORNIA'S WATER SUPPLY

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To ensure that there is enough water for drinking, for agriculture, and for ecological restoration, the law promotes environmentally sensitive water storage projects.

In addition to promoting water recycling, desalination, and the recharging of groundwater supplies, the law authorizes the necessary feasibility studies to increase the height of Shasta Dam, enlarging Los Vaqueros Reservoir, building Sites reservoir in the Sacramento Valley, and providing water storage in the upper San Joaquin Valley.

Overall, this bill authorizes \$395 million to cover the federal share of the CALFED program from fiscal year 2005 through 2010. The state and water users will be responsible for another third each.

This funding will help ensure that California has a safe, reliable supply of drinking water, that there adequate resources for environmental restoration, and that the State remains a worldwide leader in agriculture.



*The Calfed legislation authorizes funding to improve water conveyance so that everyone's water needs can be met.*

# PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

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While it is necessary to increase the State's supply of water, it is critical that significant environmental habitat be restored and protected throughout the state, and especially in the San Francisco Bay-Delta.

The Bay-Delta which provides drinking water for more than 2.2 million Californians, is an area of unsurpassed ecological importance for salmon, migratory waterfowl and more than 750 other important plant and animal species.

Therefore, to protect the Bay - Delta and other sensitive areas in the State, this law authorizes funding to purchase water to protect threatened and endangered species and to enhance fisheries, and create conditions in which the State's water projects can operate reliably.

In addition, the law includes the following environmental enhancement projects:

- Improving fish passages through the modification or removal of locally owned dams;
- Restoring streams and rivers of Clear Creek, Deep Creek, Consumnes River, San Joaquin River and Tuolumne River;
- Restoring habitat in the Delta, San Pablo Bay, Suisun Bay, and Yolo bypass;
- Establishing 8,000-12,000 acres of wildlife friendly agriculture lands;
- Restoring habitat and hydraulic needs on Frank's Tract in the Delta;
- Improving salmon spawning and juvenile survival in upstream tributaries;
- Protecting and restoring the Sacramento River meander corridor as part of the Sacramento River Conservation Area including purchase of easements over 15,000 acres, re-vegetation and restoration of stream meander;
- Implementing an invasive species program;
- Assessing the potential need for additional fish contamination, monitoring and consumption advisories in the Bay-Delta Watershed;
- Assessing existing agency programs to reduce turbidity and sedimentation;
- Improving dissolved oxygen conditions in the San Joaquin River near Stockton.

Through these and other projects, this law ensures that California's precious natural resources are adequately protected.



# FOR MORE INFORMATION

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If you are interested in receiving further information about this important issue, please log on to Senator Feinstein's website (<http://feinstein.senate.gov>) and register to receive e-mail updates, or contact:

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